

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

receiving, by an intermediary, information about an electronic mall keeper to which a user desires a transaction, information about commodities to be purchased by said user, and a packet and executing an order and payment of commodities to an electronic mall keeper in behalf of said user; and

receiving, by said intermediary, a secret decryption key for said packet transmitted from said user in exchange of said commodities and then obtaining a credit card number of said user by deciphering the packet cipher with said secret decryption key.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

at a first transaction between a user which desires to purchase commodities and an intermediary, receiving, by an intermediary, information about an electronic mall keeper to which said user desires a transaction, information about commodities to be purchased by said user, and a packet and executing an order and payment of commodities to an electronic mall keeper in behalf of said user;

receiving, by said intermediary, a secret decryption key for said packet transmitted from said user in exchange of said commodities and then obtaining a credit card number of said user by deciphering the packet cipher;

recording, by said intermediary, a credit card number of said user acquired through decryption of said packet;

at the second or later transaction between said user which desires to purchase commodities and said intermediary, receiving, by said intermediary, information about an electronic mall keeper to which said user desires transaction and information about commodities to be purchased by said user and then executing an order and payment of said commodities to an electronic mall keeper in behalf of said user; and

acquiring, by said intermediary, a credit card number of said user based on the intermediary recording.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

ordering, by a user, commodities by transmitting information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about commodities to be purchased to an intermediary;

transmitting, by said user, a packet regarding the merchandise order ~~in the previous step~~ to said intermediary;

ordering, by said intermediary, commodities by specifying itself as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on the information received in said packet;

notifying, by said intermediary, said electronic mall keeper of a credit card number of said intermediary;

shipping, by said electronic mall keeper, said commodities to said intermediary;

shipping, by said intermediary, said commodities to said user;

transmitting, by said user, a secret decryption key for said packet to said intermediary, in

exchange of the commodities received from said intermediary;

acquiring, by said intermediary, a credit card number by deciphering the previously received packet cipher with the secret decryption key from said user; and

said intermediary receiving a cash and commission of the commodities with the credit card number.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A merchandise transaction method in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

deciding whether or not a transaction between a user which wants to purchase a commodity and an intermediary is for the first time;

ordering, by said user, orders the commodity by transmitting information about an electronic mall keeper desired by said user and information about a commodity to be purchased to said intermediary when it is decided that the transaction between said user and said intermediary is for the first time;

ordering, by said intermediary, the commodity by specifying itself as a merchandise shipping destination to an electronic mall keeper, based on the sets of information received;

notifying, by said intermediary, the credit card number of said intermediary to said electronic mall keeper at the first transaction between the user and the intermediary;

shipping, by said electronic mall keeper, said commodity to said intermediary between said user and said intermediary;

shipping, by said intermediary, said commodity to said user at the first step between said user and said intermediary;

transmitting, by said user, said secret decryption key for the packet to said

intermediary, in exchange of the commodity received;

acquiring, by said intermediary, the credit card number by deciphering the cipher of said packet with the secret decryption key;

said intermediary receiving a cash and commission for said commodity with said credit card number;

recording, by said intermediary, corresponding information for the purpose of the second or later transaction to said user, said corresponding information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user;

ordering, by said user, the commodity by transmitting information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a desired commodity to said intermediary when it is decided that a transaction between the user and the intermediary is the second time or later;

ordering, by said intermediary, said commodity by specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper;

notifying, by said intermediary, the credit card number of said intermediary to said electronic mall keeper at the second or later transaction between the user and the intermediary;

shipping, by said electronic mall keeper, said commodity to said user at the second or later transaction between said user and said intermediary;

notifying, by said user, which has received said commodity said intermediary of arrival of said commodity; and

receiving, by said intermediary, a cash and commission of said commodity with the credit card number of said user at the second or later transaction between said user and said

intermediary.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) An intermediary information processing system which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

- a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

- a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order by said merchandise order receiver;

- a merchandise order transmitter for ordering said commodity by specifying said an intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver;

- a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for a merchandise order by said merchandise order transmitter;

- a merchandise receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper;

- a merchandise shipper for shipping the commodity received by said merchandise receiver to said user;

- a secret decryption key receiver for receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity; and

- a cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the

packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver and then receiving a cash and commission of the commodity with the credit card number.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) An intermediary information processing system which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

- a transaction-count decider for deciding whether a transaction to a user which wants to purchase a commodity is for the first time;

- a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

- a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order by said merchandise order receiver when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

- a merchandise order transmitter for ordering said commodity to said electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver, by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time or by specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time;

- a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for a merchandise order by said merchandise order transmitter;

a merchandise receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper, with said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination;

a merchandise shipper for shipping the commodity received by said merchandise receiver to said user;

a secret decryption key receiver for receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

an initial cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver and then receiving a cash and commission of the commodity with the credit card number;

a credit card number recorder for recording corresponding information to pay for the second or later transaction to said user when said transaction count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time, said corresponding information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user acquired by said initial cash/commission receiver;

a merchandise arrival notification receiver for receiving notification of arrival of the commodity dispatched from said electronic mall keeper to said user when said transaction count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time; and

a second or later transaction cash/commission receiver for receiving a cash and commission for the commodity with the credit card number of said user recorded by said credit card number recorder when said transaction count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A recording medium on which a program is recorded, wherein said program realizes an intermediary information processing system which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system as functions including:

- a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

- a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the commodity order by said merchandise order receiver;

- a merchandise order transmitter for ordering said commodity by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver;

- a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for the commodity order by said merchandise order transmitter;

- a merchandise receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper;

- a merchandise shipper for shipping the commodity received by said merchandise receiver to said user which ordered said commodity;

- a secret decryption key receiver for receiving said secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity; and

- a cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver



and then receiving a cash and commission for the commodity with the credit card number.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A recording medium on which a program is recorded, wherein said program realizes an intermediary information processing system which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system as functions including:

a transaction-count decider for deciding whether a transaction to a user which wants to purchase a commodity is for the first time;

a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order by said merchandise order receiver when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

a merchandise order transmitter for ordering said commodity to said electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver, by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time or by specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time;

a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for a merchandise order by said merchandise order transmitter;

a merchandise receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper, with said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination;

a merchandise shipper for shipping the commodity received by said merchandise receiver to said user which ordered said commodity;

a secret decryption key receiver for receiving said secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

an initial cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver and then receiving a cash and commission of the commodity with the credit card number;

a credit card number recorder for recording corresponding information for the purpose of the second or later transaction when said transaction count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time, said corresponding information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user acquired by said initial cash/commission receiver;

a merchandise arrival notification receiver for receiving notification of arrival of the commodity dispatched from said electronic mall keeper to said user when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time; and

a second or later transaction cash/commission receiver for receiving a cash and commission for the commodity with the credit card number of said user recorded by said credit card number recorder when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A recording medium on which a control program is stored, wherein said control program controls an information processing system of an intermediary which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system, said control program making said information processing device execute the following:

- receiving a merchandise order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about an item to be purchased from a user;

- receiving a packet transmitted from said user in said merchandise order;

- ordering an item by specifying an intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on the information about said merchandise order;

- notifying said electronic mall keeper of a credit card number of said intermediary to pay for said merchandise order;

- receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of the ordered item; and

- acquiring the credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key and then receiving a cash and commission of said item with the credit card number.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) A recording medium on which a control program is stored, wherein said control program controls an information processing system of an intermediary which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system, said control program making said information processing device execute the following:

deciding whether a transaction to a user which wants to purchase an item is for the first time;

receiving a merchandise order from a user, said merchandise order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about an item to be purchased;

receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

ordering said item to said electronic mall keeper, based on information about said received merchandise order, by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time or by specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination when it is decided that the transaction to said user is not for the first time;

notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for said merchandise order;

receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the item when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the received secret decryption key and then receiving a cash and commission for the item in the first transaction with the credit card number;

recording corresponding information for the second or later transaction to said user when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time, said corresponding information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user acquired in said first transaction;

receiving notification of arrival of the item dispatched from said electronic mall keeper to said user when it is decided that the transaction to said user is not for the first time; and

receiving a cash and commission for the item with the recorded credit card number of said user when it is decided that the transaction to said user is not for the first time.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said intermediary and shipping said commodities from said intermediary to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising said intermediary recording said credit card number.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
determining whether said transaction is a second transaction from said user;  
skipping said receiving said secret decryption key; and  
reading said recorded credit card number.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving a

notification from said user of receipt of said commodities before reading said recorded credit card number.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said intermediary executes an order and payment of commodities on behalf of the user comprises ordering said commodities from said electronic mall keeper.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said intermediary executes an order and payment of commodities on behalf of the user, the method further comprising notifying a credit card number of said intermediary to said electronic mall keeper.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said intermediary executes an order and payment of commodities on behalf of the user, the method further comprising receiving said commodities from said electronic mall keeper and shipping said commodities to said user.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said intermediary and shipping said commodities from said intermediary to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.